Route 12 - Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701

April 26, 1978

Mr. William H. Morris
Director, National Conference of Bar Examiners
Suite 1025, 333 North Michigan Ave.
Chicago, Ill. 60601

Dear Mr. Morris:

As the following letter reflects, I deeply regret the unintended delay in filing it with you. I wrote the letter during a period of illness, intending to reread it before having it retyped. Inadvertently, it disappeared into some research papers. My sincerest regrets to you and to the applicant.

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In the past decade and a half I have had extensive association with college students, undergraduates, graduate students, prelaw and law students. There is not one of whom I can speak of as well as I am pleased to speak about Howard Louis Roffman.

I have known Mr. Roffman since his high school days. He bagan visiting my wife and me during holidays and for parts of summers. I believe that I may have had something to do with his decision to become a lawyer. From associaton with and observation of him, I came to believe that he was ideally suited for appeals practice. This belief is one of the reasons I encouraged him to study the law. So I am gratified that he has this interest in appeals practice.

While I know many fine young people, I know none who exceeds him in those many qualities that go to make a good person. I can vouch for his personal integrity in particular and in comparison with a number of his peers and members of the bar, all of whom have come here for access to my extensive files on a subject of common interest. Although Mr. Roffman was writing a book, he alone resisted the temptation to make unauthorized uses.

His first book, "Presumed Guilty," is a model of care and responsibility in treating the intensely controversial subject of the assassination of President Kennedy. Of all the books on all side of this controversy, including my own seven books, I believe his to be the most comprehensible and the most closely and carefully reasoned.

Despite the affection we have for each other, I have never known him to defer to me when he believed he erred and I have never known him to be persuaded against his own reasoning and research. When there was disagreement that mattered to him, I have never known him not to make his own independent inquiry and study to reach his own determination and decision. I have never known him to conclude with error of law or of fact. His care with and presentation of evidence and his logic and lucidity have often convinced me of my own error.

Mr. Roffman is an extraordinarily gifted person. Unlike many others of above average endowment, I have never detected in him such character flaws as arrogance or conceit. I have never known him to be unwilling to reexamine his own position or belief or not to change either when it was right to do so. Particularly because of his youth and his talents, I regard these qualities as exceptional.

Aside from our in-person associations, I have had extensive correspondence with Mr. Roffman. Much of this has dealt with evidence and law. I have never knwon him not to master the evidence or not to be devoted to the meaning of the law, even when the meaning he saw in the law was opposed to his preference. I am familiar with some of his legal research and his writing based on it and I have found it to be impressive. His presentations are clear, comprehensible as few are capable of achieving comprehensibility, logical and persuasive.

Because I am so fond of Mr. Roffman, as proud as a father can be of a son (although by age I could be his grandfather), I do assure you I am not exaggerating. He is in all respects, intellectually and personally, a superior person. He is bright, hard-working, honest, lucid as few are and, for all his talents and accomplishments, remains modest. I do not believe it is possible for me to commend him too highly. As I look back on many years and many associations, including with those in public life, many of the bar, I see no one who exceeds him in the qualities I believe make for a good lawyer, no one who so diligently and successfully worked hard to add to what nature had endowed him with, and I recall no single young person who gave more promise of growing into a lawyer of whom the bar might be proud.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg